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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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1. The Dürzhavno Sanitarno Aptechno Predpriyatie (State Health and Medical Enterprise; DSAP), a state organization created by and subordinate to the Ministry of Health, administers, controls, and supplies all Bulgarian pharmacies with drugs, medicines, and medical instruments. Branch offices of the DSAP are located in the major towns and control the pharmacies of their districts. However, the Sofia Okrug branch does not control the pharmacies in the city itself; this is the responsibility of the Sofia city administration.
2. The city administration has offices and storage facilities for patent medicines, drugs, and chemicals in a 3-story building at No. 22 George Washington Street. Tinctures, oils and spirits are stored on Boris I Street, and medical instruments and appliances are stored on Tsar Simeon Street. Novachkov (fnu) is head of the city administration.
3. The 79 pharmacies in Sofia are classified into four groups on the basis of yearly turnover. The two Class A pharmacies in Sofia have an annual turnover of more than 2,000,000 leva.
4. The city administration supplies drugs, medicines, and medical instruments to all pharmacies, dispensaries, medical stations, and municipal hospitals in Sofia, except such large hospitals as the ISUL (Institut za Spetsializatsiya: Ustavurshenstvuvane na Lekarite Kadri; Physicians' Specialization Institute) and the Vülko Chervenkov Academy. The latter are supplied directly from the DSAP. The pharmacies receive approximately 60 percent of the supplies.
5. Each pharmacy makes out its annual plan, based on the volume of sales during the current year, and forwards the plan, complete with detailed requirements

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- 2 -

25X1A

of each drug and chemical, to the city administration. The city administration coordinates the plans with the requirements of the dispensaries, medical stations, and hospitals; it draws up an overall plan for the coming year, which it sends to the DSAP for approval in August-September. The city administration receives the final plan, embodying modifications and new prices for the coming year, from the DSAP in December. (The city administration plan for 1953 was fixed at 28,000,000 leva.)

6. Although the city administration receives all its supplies from the DSAP, it is in direct contact with the local pharmaceutical factories. Each article, although coming directly from the manufacturer, is invoiced by the DSAP. However, consignments to the individual pharmacies are invoiced by the city administration only, and the pharmacist has no way of knowing the amount of marginal accrument. Pharmacies are allowed a waste margin of 10 percent for fluids and five percent for powders.
7. The greater part of Bulgaria's requirements of drugs and medicines is imported, principally from other Satellite nations:
 - a. Hungary supplies Agoverin (hormones in ampullae), Supracilin (monocilin in ampullae), Hozal (artificial salt), and ultraseptil (a sulfanomite in ampulla, tablet, ointment, and powder form);
 - b. Czechoslovakia supplies Sanepil (for epilepsy), Myron (for heart diseases and high blood pressure), and Purovagin (antiseptic for women); and
 - c. The USSR supplies 80 percent of the raw materials required by the local pharmaceutical industry.
8. The local pharmaceutical industry can supply only a very small part of requirements, and even production of patent medicines is negligible:
 - a. The Galenus laboratories make Ascophen (for common colds and headaches), Cophenal (combined with puramidon for common colds and headaches), Pertusol (for coughs), Arsenferotol (for convalescents), Acetizal (aspirin), Biochemoferin (for anemia), and Extr. Hepatis (liver extract);
 - b. The factory at Iliyantsi (N 42-45, E 23-19) is experimenting in the extraction of such basic materials as alkaloids, caffeine, and codein, and
 - c. Although plans call for building small laboratories in the okrúg centers to produce patent medicines for local use, nothing has materialized to date.
9. The DSAP annual plan for materials and medicines does not include antibiotics. The demand for antibiotics is far greater than the supply, and neither the pharmacies nor the city administration can foresee the times and quantities of future allocations. The Ministry of Health occasionally gives specific authorization to the city administration to draw small quantities of antibiotics from the DSAP.
10. When antibiotics are available to pharmacies, they are sold only to a buyer who can present a physician's prescription which has been countersigned by two more physicians. Dispensaries and medical stations follow the same procedure. The city administration sends approximately 80 percent of antibiotics received from the DSAP to medical stations and hospitals, and the pharmacies receive the remaining 20 percent.
11. Crystalline penicillin of 300,000, 500,000, and 1,000,000 units has been imported from Poland, and physicians consider its quality as fairly good. Penicillin in all units up to 3,000,000 (in oil), streptomycin, and PAS (Para-amino salicyclic acid) have been imported from the USSR. Physicians consider the Soviet penicillin as highly efficient and comparable with the Western product, but compare the Soviet streptomycin very unfavorably with the Western product. Bulgaria receives PAS in powder form from the USSR and makes it available in tablet form. Chloromycetin, aureomycin, and terramycin are not available in pharmacies; the city administration issues what is available to medical stations and hospitals only. The last-named antibiotics are usually of American origin.

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- 3 -

25X1A

12. The city administration's monthly allocation for July 1953 was 13,000 vials of penicillin of 200,000 units each and approximately 4,000 to 5,000 vials of streptomycin. During the period January-July 1953 it received three kilograms of terramycin in capsules, but neither chloromycetin nor aureomycin was available.
13. Prices of certain drugs and medicines in July 1953 were as follows:
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| a. Penicillin | 5.50 leva per 200,000 units |
| b. PAS | 480.00 leva per kilogram of tablets |
| c. Biochemoferin | 5.00 leva per vial |
| d. Extr. Hepatis | 14.00 leva per vial |
| e. Ascophen | 1.00 leva per tube |
| f. Cophenal | 1.60 leva per tube |
| g. Calcium Gluconicum | 1.20 leva per 10 cc or 10 percent solution |
| h. Aspirin | 0.70 per 10 tablets. |
14. The pharmacist makes a copy of the physician's prescription presented by the customer, returns the copy to the customer, and sends the original within a few months to the city administration.

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